



# FRONTIER CULTURE MUSEUM

*Bringing the Past to Life*

Volume 18, No. 3 Fall 2003



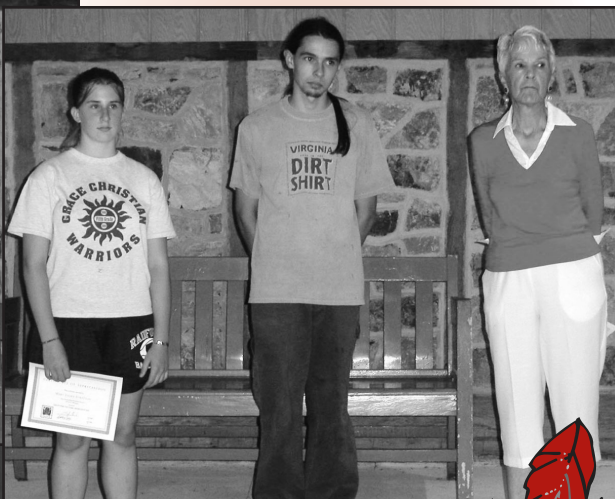
## *New Pavilion is Site of Annual Volunteer/Employee Recognition Dinner*

As is tradition, the Frontier Culture Museum hosted our annual Recognition Dinner to celebrate the valuable professional services and personal contributions of our staff members. On a daily basis, our dedicated employees and volunteers enhance museum services, strengthen and support museum activities and programs, and enrich the overall museum experience for the thousands who visit the museum annually. Furthermore, without the wide variety of talents and abilities offered by our staff, museum development would remain more a distant dream than a tangible reality. As we look forward to actualizing our Master Site Development Plans, no doubt staff support will remain a vital component of our future success.

This year's recognition dinner was held on Wednesday, August 27, 2003 in our new Pavilion. By all measures, the event was a great success with close to one hundred in



*(L-R) Robert O'Hagan, Hal Meyers*



*(L-R) Mary Elizabeth Stratton,  
Stuart McCumsey, Pearle Rowe*



*John Lewis Society Members  
(L-R) Elizabeth Hochstetler,  
Jill Bourgeois, Sarah Cook,  
Juliana Heerschap, Emily Romig*

attendance. As usual the food was superb! Dishes prepared by volunteers and employees, along with a generous contribution of delicious fresh pork BBQ from Mr. Harry Boney, created a virtual feast. The house band comprised of Dave Landes, Russ Stallings and Teri Stark,

*continued on page 3*

*Be sure to see  
the upcoming  
events on  
page 11!*



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# A Blessed Egg-vent!



*Peachicks*

“You work at the Frontier Culture Museum? What an interesting job that must be!” Yes, it’s a continual learning process on just about everything – now to include peacocks. Last fall, the museum became home to five peacocks. Sadly, one was lost to an injury, but four remain, roaming the site and delighting visitors. We didn’t know much about the particulars of raising peacocks, but of one thing we were fairly certain – with the sex ratio of three males to one female, something was bound to happen. And happen it did, in June, when the lone female began setting in the juniper bed in front of the museum store. We scurried to the internet for some information on peacock breeding to give us a clue of what to do. We found that hens can lay up to ten eggs. Our bird’s top count turned out to be five. Incubation takes 28 to 30 days. Except for brief daily forays off the nest, lasting only about half an hour, she stayed put, through heat and storms, and the constant passage of visitors.

Four of the fist-sized eggs hatched. And here’s our next peacock learning point: three of the peachicks are brown-and-tan striped – they look a lot like wild turkey poults – but the third is yellow, like a giant Easter chick!

Peacocks – correctly known as peafowl – are members of the avian order

Galliformes, along with chickens, turkeys and pheasants, so they share a lot of characteristics with these more familiar birds. After that long incubation, the young hatch and hit the ground running. We had hoped to allow nature to continue to take its course, with the peachicks following the hen around the museum, but caution got the better of us. To protect them from snakes, cats and other possible predators, we took the hatchling peachicks for safe raising in a pen at an off-site barn. Also, we were uncertain as to the males’ intentions for the chicks.

Now, you’re probably wondering about the hen’s reaction to having her chicks taken from her. This is hard for us human parents to relate to, but everything a bird does is based on programmed responses to stimuli. Had we taken the eggs to be put in an incubator – as many breeders do – the hen would have left the nest, because the stimulus to set – the presence of eggs – was gone. As it was, the hen was confused for a few hours after the chicks were taken. Then, without the stimulus of their presence, she went on as if nothing had happened.

The peachicks are eating and growing in their safe haven. Next spring they should be big enough to join the others out on the grounds. And maybe by then we’ll know what a yellow peachick grows up to look like. 🐣

Visit our website [www.frontiermuseum.org](http://www.frontiermuseum.org)



*continued from page 1*

serenaded the guests during the evenings' festivities. Delegate Steve Landes addressed the group and expressed thanks to all staff on behalf of the Museum Personnel Committee. Our Executive Director Mr. John Avoli gave an update on the current state of museum development projects and recognized two employees, Estelle Campbell and Mark Gatewood, for fifteen years of state service each.

Debbie Cole, Volunteer Coordinator, made presentations to the adult volunteers. Active volunteers in three categories were honored with certificates and coupons redeemable for the latest museum Christmas ornament (i.e. the Irish Forge). These ornaments should be available through the Museum Store by January or February 2004. It was reported that the total number of volunteer service hours for Fiscal Year 2002-2003 was 6,334.2 hours and the total number of regular active volunteers increased by 172%, from 54 to 147. Mr. Hal Meyers, who is currently a volunteer interpreter on the American Farm, was honored as the volunteer with the most hours of service for the year with 337.5 hours.

Dave Landes, European Farms Team Leader, recognized thirty members of the John Lewis Junior Interpretive Program with certificates. These are our youngest volunteers, but they often become excellent candidates for employment because of the experience and knowledge they gain through this program.

The honorary event concluded abruptly as a thunderstorm blew through the area, but not before closing with thanks and congratulations to all for "a job well done". Remember, recognition is an ongoing "attitude of gratitude" that should be conveyed regularly, not just once a year. Be sure to let others know how much their efforts and contributions are appreciated! 🍄



## *Something old, Something new*



*Pavilion*



*Pavilion (back wall) stone work*

**W**e've blended something old and something new to create the museum's newest building. "Something new" is the building itself, a modern post and truss picnic pavilion. At just over 5,000 square feet, the pavilion is the museum's largest public space. It occupies a site behind the Visitor Center with a commanding view of the museum farms and it catches a good breeze on summer days. The pavilion has full lighting and electrical service and a 12' by 52' enclosed area for equipment storage and caterer preparations, with a stove, refrigerator and gas grill.

Creative use of building materials from Cochran's Mill supplies the "something old." The mill, formerly located just south of Staunton, dates to the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. The mill's recent demolition furnished oak floor joists, heavy framing timbers and foundation stone which the museum's Historic Restoration staff has turned into timber frame walls and stone infill enclosing part of the storage/preparation room.

Buildings & Grounds staff solved the problem of controlling stormwater runoff from 5000 square feet of roof by creating rain gardens, raised plantings of trees and shrubs with deep layers of mulch to trap rainwater as it comes from the gutters and downspouts. A retaining wall made of Cochran's mill foundation stone graces the front of the pavilion and will serve as backdrop for later landscaping developments.

The pavilion will give us covered space for special events and is also available for rental. For rental information, call Sarah Crenshaw at 540-332-7850, extension 129.

Next time you visit the museum, we invite you to walk up to the new pavilion and enjoy the view and the breeze and see our blend of something old and something new. 🍄

# Teacher's Summer Resource Program 2003



*Teacher's Institute 2003*

In July 2003, the Museum hosted its popular annual Teacher's Summer Resource Program. This year's program, entitled "A New Life in America" opened with a luncheon on Thursday July 17, which included a visit from "Meriwether Lewis", presented by Richard Cheatham of Living History Associates of Richmond Virginia. Captain Lewis' visit was a fine beginning for a program concentrating on the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries; the time period of the Museum's newest farm reconstruction project, the Bowman House.

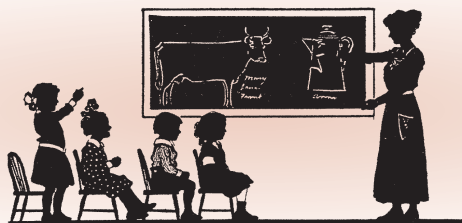
Twenty-five teachers from across the state attended hands-on classes and lectures designed to enrich their classroom teaching, offer new ways to use museum resources in schools, and support the Virginia Standards of Learning. Topics this

year included an education round-table with faculty from James Madison University, the University of Virginia and senior staff members from Monticello, a visit from "United States Supreme Court Chief Justice John Marshall", historic gardening and cooking, stonemasonry, painted floor cloths, broom-making, horses and carriages, blacksmithing, quilting, historic building reconstruction lectures and hands-on activities, domestic skills of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and a final teacher networking and classroom planning session.

Special events throughout the long weekend included a dinner in downtown Staunton and the play "Much Ado about Nothing" at the Blackfriar's theater, a cookout in the Museum's new pavilion, and a old-time supper and barn dance on the American Farm.

Teachers were able to take the course for graduate credit through James Madison University, and several chose to do so by completing special projects related to the Museum's theme and programs. All attending teachers received continuing education credits through James Madison University as well. The Beazley Foundation of Portsmouth, Virginia offered both general support to the program as well as scholarships for teachers from Tidewater school districts.

Teachers attending the program gave enthusiastic, positive evaluations, and many expressed their desire to return next year and to "bring friends". Museum staff member's terrific team effort made the 2003 program the best program to date, and all are looking forward to next year's event. 🍎





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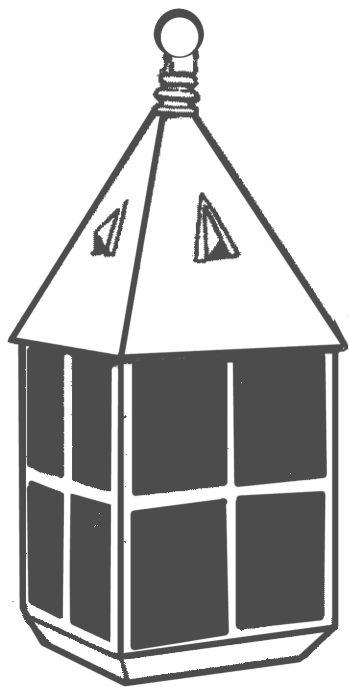
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*While we strive to make certain that all gifts are acknowledged accurately, it is possible that errors have been made in the foregoing list. If any are discovered, please accept our sincere apologies, and notify us so we can make appropriate*

*The American Frontier Culture Foundation gratefully acknowledges the generosity of our donors and members, who make possible our efforts to share our story with thousands of children and members of the public through education, living history and family-focused programs.*



# Holiday Lantern Tours 2003



The staff of the Frontier Culture Museum is busy preparing for this year's Holiday Lantern Tours. Auditions for the programs were held at the Museum September 6 and 7, and volunteer cast members, tour guides, and other holiday helpers were recruited from local drama clubs, schools, community theater troupes, Museum members, and others. Interpretive specialist Claire

Hensley, a longtime Museum staff member who is active in local theater is coordinating plans for this year's programs, and will direct the overall production.

Claire has worked to prepare historically appropriate and engaging scripts for each farmsite, and is currently working with other staff members to oversee all aspects of this year's Lantern Tours, from cast auditions to tour guide selection and training to those "special touches" such as decorations and refreshments which make each evening's experience special.

Lantern Tour guests will visit the Museum's 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century German, Scotch-Irish and English farms, and learn of Old World Christmas traditions, and will also visit the 1850's American Farm to learn how old customs were incorporated into holiday celebrations in American culture in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Tours will be presented the nights of December 12, 13, 14, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 and 26. The first tour of each evening begins at 5:30, and tours leave the Visitor's Center every 30 minutes. Light refreshments will be served in the Visitor's Center lobby at the conclusion of the tour. Reservations are required, and member's and group discounts are available. To reserve space, call the Museum Visitor's Center at 540-332-7850 extension 124 for information and reservations.

## AMERICAN HERITAGE QUILT SHOW



**OCTOBER 17 - 26**

10 a.m. - 4 p.m. each day.  
(Museum is open 9-5 p.m.)

Hand and machine made quilts of all sizes and styles on display in the Lecture Hall of the Museum's Dairy Barn Education Center. Visit the Museum's 1850's American farmsite for quilting demonstrations.


Quilters wishing to exhibit should contact the Museum.

Museum and Quilt Show combo ticket:

\$12 adult (13 and up), \$7 child (6-12), under 6 free.

Museum only: GENERAL ADMISSION

Quilt Show only: \$5 adult (13 and up), \$2 child (6-12 years).



FRONTIER CULTURE MUSEUM'S  
*Fourth Annual*  
**HERITAGE CLASSIC**  
GOLF TOURNAMENT

---

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2003  
Country Club of Staunton • \$200 per person

Sponsored by:  
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two-person teams in each foursome  
competing against each other

Celebrity players joining us:  
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Ron McDole, Pat Fischer and Sonny Handley.

**SCHEDULE**

11:30 a.m. Opening Ceremony & Tee-off  
6:00 p.m. Reception with VMI Pipe & Drum Corps  
7:30 p.m. Dinner at the Frontier Culture Museum

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### HISTORY

Fischer & Kelly, <u>Bound Away</u> . . . . .	19.50
Leyburn, <u>Scotch-Irish: Social History</u> . . . . .	17.95
Rouse, <u>Great Wagon Road</u> . . . . .	14.95
Waddell, <u>Annals of Augusta County</u> . . . . .	47.50
Kercheval, <u>History of Valley of Virginia</u> . . . . .	35.00
Wayland, <u>Virginia Valley Records</u> . . . . .	42.50

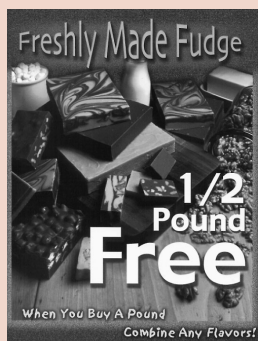
### NICHOLAS MOSSE POTTERY

New! Arriving September and October  
Add Poinsettia design to your holiday table. Limited availability.



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Homemade FRESH FUDGE. Stop by and try some today.  
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# OKTOBERFEST

FRONTIER CULTURE MUSEUM  
OCTOBER 10 & 11 2003

Friday 6 - 10 p.m.  
Saturday 12 noon - 10 p.m.

**B**RING  
the family  
and enjoy a

traditional Oktoberfest complete  
with authentic Bavarian, Austrian and  
German Village band music; Bavarian  
dancers, singers and entertainers;  
food and beverages; contests; children's  
activities and lots more! Tours of the  
historic German farmsite from 9-5  
each day.





# Upcoming Events...

Open daily: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Open Daily  
Complete calendar on-line at [www.frontiermuseum.org](http://www.frontiermuseum.org) or call 540.332.7850

## OCTOBER



### October 3 IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE

11 a.m. Stand witness as new citizens take the oath of citizenship of the United States of America. Seating limited. FREE

### October 10, 11 OKTOBERFEST

Friday 6-10 p.m.  
Saturday 12 noon – 10 p.m. Start the Fall season at our traditional Oktoberfest! Sample brews, beverages and German foods under the big tent on the Museum's front property; children's activities 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. on Saturday. Tours of the historic German farmsite from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. each day. Oktoberfest Admission \$10 per adult (13 and up) and \$6 per child (6-12). Under 6 free. Food and beverages extra.



### October 17-26 AMERICAN HERITAGE QUILT SHOW

10 a.m. – 4 p.m. each day. (Museum is open 9-5). Hand and machine made quilts of all sizes and styles on display in the Lecture Hall of the Museum's Dairy Barn Education Center. Visit the Museum's 1850's American farmsite for quilting demonstrations. Quilters wishing to exhibit should contact the Museum. Museum and Quilt Show

combo ticket: \$12 adult (13 and up), \$7 child (6-12 years), under 6 free. Museum only: GENERAL ADMISSION Quilt Show only: \$5 adult (13 and up), \$2 child (6-12 years).

### October 18 BLACKSMITH'S "HAMMER-IN" 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Blacksmithing demonstrations, seminars, and "Iron in the Hat" competition. Participating Blacksmiths register in advance by contacting the Museum. GENERAL ADMISSION

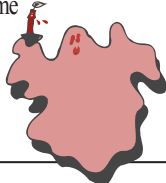


### October 24 "THE LEGEND OF SLEEPY HOLLOW" LIME KILN TRAVELING THEATER 7 p.m. in the

wooded dell by the Octagonal Barn. Join Museum staff and your friends at a spooky Halloween rendition of the classic American tale. Lime Kiln Theater's traveling troupe brings the characters and story to life in a rustic open-air setting. Fun for all ages but may be scary! \*\* Advance tickets required: \$12.50 adult (13 and up), \$7.50 child (6-12). Under 6 free. Call early for reservations!

### October 31 SPOOKY TRICK OR TREATING FOR KIDS

5 – 7 p.m. Children aged 2-10 visit the historic farms in costume for a treat at each stop (snacks and small momentos). Trick or treat bags provided for



all. Advance tickets required: \$7.50 per person (ages 2 and up). Children must be accompanied by a ticketed adult.

### October 31 – November 1 & 2 "CREEPY TALES: HAUNTED HISTORY"

Tours at 7, 7:30 and 8 p.m. on October 31 and tours at 6, 6:30, 7, 7:30 and 8 p.m. on November 1 and 2. Enjoy folktales and ghost stories from America's past on a lantern lit tour. Program takes about 1 1/2 hours. Light refreshments served. Advance tickets required: \$10 adults (13 and up) / \$7.50 children (6-12) (not recommended for children under 6). \*\*



## DECEMBER

### December 1 – 31 HOLIDAYS IN HISTORY 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Experience how many of America's ancestors celebrated the holidays. Visit each historic farms to learn about holiday traditions. GENERAL ADMISSION



**December 6 CHILDREN'S  
HOLIDAY PARTY** 10 a.m. – noon or 1 – 3 p.m. A special Holiday party for children 4 to 10 brings 17th, 18th and 19th century games, past-times, dances, and friends together. Advance tickets required. \$12 per child.

### December 13 HOLIDAY COOKING WORKSHOP 1

p.m. – 4 p.m. Learn historic foodways and prepare traditional holiday favorites in historic and modern kitchens. Advance tickets required. \$17.50 (adults 16 and older).



### December 12, 13, 14, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 26 HOLIDAY LANTERN

**TOURS** Experience holidays in history with warm fires, candle light and holiday cheer as you travel to four historic farms to enjoy Christmas vignettes in Germany, Northern Ireland, England and the Shenandoah Valley. Tours leave every 30 minutes from 5:30-8 p.m. Light refreshments at the Visitor Center. Call for group discounts and combo ticket information. Advance tickets required: \$12 adults / \$8 children 12 and under. \*\*



\* Denotes free admission to current members when presenting membership card.

\*\* Denotes special price for members.

Cancellation policy: Full refunds issued only upon museum closing or cancellation of event, or medical emergency.

## Blacksmith's Hammer-In

Be sure to mark your calendars for the Frontier Culture Museum's annual Blacksmith's Hammer-In October 18th. There will be demonstrations by not only our resident Blacksmiths, but also by guest Blacksmiths Rick Guthrie from Saluda, Virginia and John Richter from Chesapeake, Virginia. If you're interested in entering the forging contest, forge a letter opener and bring it with you to enter. For more details on requirements for the contest entry contact Russ Stallings at the Museum (540) 332-7850. First prize will be \$100 and second prize is \$50.

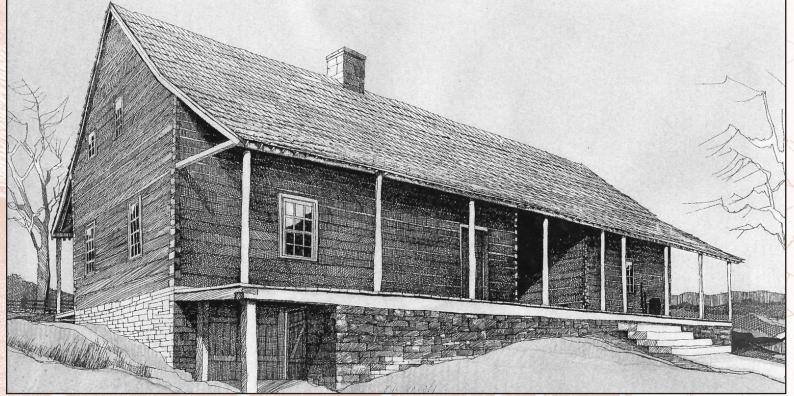


There will also be an "Iron in the Hat" raffle with proceeds helping to fund this event. There will be Hammer-In T-shirts for sale – always a popular item— and Tailgate sales for those who want to buy, sell or swap tools, stock and forged pieces.

So come and see demonstrations on pattern welding, cable knives, traditional axe making and visit our 1730's Irish Forge as you stroll through our one-of-a-kind living history museum. This event will bring to life a visit to the past like no other.

# BOWMAN HOUSE PROJECT UPDATE

The American Frontier Culture Foundation was pleased to be presented with two major donations to the Bowman House project at the April 2003 meeting of its Board of Directors. The donations, which together total nearly \$10,000, were made by the Virginia Chapter of the Children of the American Revolution, and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Y. Frazier of Harrisonburg and their family. The Bowman House was the subject of the Virginia Chapter of the CAR's annual fund-raising campaign, and the Frazier family generously matched their efforts. The Virginia Chapter of the CAR's donation was presented by its president, Ben True. The Frazier family's donation was presented by Robert Y. and Linda Betts Frazier and their grandchildren, all of whom are members of the CAR. Mr. and Mrs. Frazier donated the Bowman House to the Foundation in 2001. The donations will be used to purchase historical furnishings and kitchen equipment for the reconstructed Bowman House. The Foundation and everyone associated with the Bowman House project wish to thank the Frazier family and the Virginia Chapter of the CAR for their generosity and support of this important undertaking. 🍎



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